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**Thursday, July 9, 2009**

**Washington, DC** - Today, Rep. Braley announced that he has secured \$678,000 for programs at the University of Northern Iowa in the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, as well as \$1 million for his New Era Program. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Agriculture Appropriations bill by a vote of 266-160.

The House-passed Agriculture Appropriations bill contains \$298,000 for the University of Northern Iowa's Tallgrass Prairie Center Native Seed Testing Lab, which studies how to improve floodplain recovery and wetland restoration. Braley secured an additional \$380,000 for the University of Northern Iowa's National Ag-Based Lubricants Center, which does research, development and testing of bio-based lubricants with the goal of creating commercial bio-based products.

"I'm proud to secure funding that will enhance research and development opportunities at the University of Northern Iowa," Braley said. "These important programs will benefit Iowa students, farmers and businesses. Investing in these projects will help create new jobs here in Iowa."

Today's bill also includes an additional \$1 million for Braley's New Era Program. The New Era Act was the first bill introduced by Braley as a member of Congress, and the program became law in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The New Era Program awards grants to community colleges that start workforce education courses to train workers for jobs in the renewable energy field. The program is administered by the US Department of Agriculture.

"My New Era Program will help train and equip workers with the skills they need to get today's new renewable energy jobs," Braley said. "Iowa is already a national leader in renewable energy, and this industry is only going to grow. The New Era Program ensures that Iowa workers are ready to take advantage of these new job opportunities."

The Agriculture Appropriations bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.